



HAY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL
REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
for the year 1953.

Officials.

Medical Officer of Health.....T.C.R.George, M.R.C.S.,
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Sanitary Inspector.....G.G.Evans, M.R.San.I.,
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Hay Rural District Council

Report of the Medical Officer of Health

1953.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my annual report on the sanitary conditions and the state of the public health in the Hay Rural District during the year 1953.

In the preparation of this report I have endeavoured to deal briefly with all matters within my responsibility regarding public health and preventive medicine and I have included all the subjects specifically requested by the Welsh Board of Health in Circular 1/54 (Wales).

SECTION 1. GENERAL AND VITAL STATISTICS.

Statistical summary for the year 1953.

Area.....39,153 acres.
Population (Census 1951).....3,869.
Population (Estimated at Midsummer 1953).....3,711.
Number of inhabited houses.....960.

<u>Live Births.</u>	Males.	Females.	Total.	Rate per 1000 pop
Legitimate	18	27	45	
Illegitimate	0	1	1	
	18	28	46	11.8

<u>Still Births.</u>	2	0	2	0.54
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<u>Deaths from all causes.</u>	24	24	48	12.8
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Maternal Deaths.....0.

Deaths under one year.

All infants.....1.	Rate per 1000 live births.....21.8
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Deaths from special causes:

Infectious disease.....0.
Tuberculosis of respiratory system.....1.
Other tuberculous disease.....0.
Cancer.....3.

Area. The Rural District of Hay, which has an area of 39,153 acres forms part of the County of Breconshire. This district is situated in the northern part of the County and is agricultural in nature with farming as the predominant occupation of the residents. There are no large towns in the district, but in the district are two large hospitals, the Mental Hospital at Talgarth and the South Wales Sanatorium at Bronllys.

Population. Census 1931.....4028.
Census 1951.....3869.

1943.	1944.	1945.	1946.	1947.	1948.	1949.	1950.	1951.	1952.	1953.
3832.	3535.	3390.	3269.	3327.	3654.	3655.	3745.	3657.	3647.	3711.

The above figures are the Registrar General's estimated figures for the various years.

The number of inhabited houses in the district was 960 giving an average number of 3.8 persons per house.

<u>Births</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rate</u>
1940	17	34	51	12.2
1941	25	38	63	14.3
1942	23	20	43	10.7
1943	28	27	55	14.6
1944	29	33	62	17.4
1945	32	34	66	18.8
1946	17	24	41	12.5
1947	26	28	54	16.2
1948	32	27	59	17.6
1949	27	34	61	16.7
1950	32	20	52	13.9
1951	30	22	52	14.2
1952	22	21	43	11.7
1953	18	28	46	11.8
England and Wales, 1953				15.5

It will be observed that the birthrate for the year under review was lower than the average for the whole of England and Wales.

Deaths. After taking into account the outwardly and inwardly transferable deaths the net number of deaths registered amongst residents in the district is shown below :-

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rate</u>
1940	27	33	60	14.4
1941	24	25	49	11.1
1942	19	18	37	9.2
1943	22	14	36	9.4
1944	24	11	35	9.8
1945	23	14	37	10.9
1946	31	15	46	14.0
1947	20	8	28	8.4
1948	14	14	28	7.6
1949	29	21	50	13.6
1950	20	20	40	10.7
1951	16	18	34	9.3
1952	22	12	34	9.3
1953	24	24	48	12.8
England and Wales, 1953				11.4

The death-rate for 1953 was therefore higher than the average for the whole of England and Wales and was also higher than the birthrate.

<u>Still Births.</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rate</u>
1940	0	0	0	0
1941	1	1	2	0.4
1942	4	1	5	1.2
1943	2	0	2	0.5
1944	1	1	2	0.6
1945	0	1	1	0.3
1946	2	0	2	0.6
1947	1	0	1	0.3
1948	0	2	2	0.6
1949	1	1	2	0.54
1950	0	0	0	0
1951	0	2	2	0.54
1952	1	0	1	0.27
1953	2	0	2	0.54
England and Wales, 1953				0.35

The still-birth rate was therefore higher than the average for the whole of England and Wales.

Infantile Mortality. This is the number of deaths occurring in children of under one year of age. The rate is calculated per 1000 live births.

	Males	Females	Total	Rate
1940	0	4	4	78
1941	2	1	3	47
1942	2	0	2	46
1943	2	0	2	36
1944	0	0	0	0
1945	1	1	2	36
1946	2	0	2	48
1947	2	0	2	36
1948	2	2	4	67
1949	1	1	2	32
1950	4	1	5	96.1
1951	2	1	3	57
1952	0	0	0	0
1953	0	1	1	21.8
England and Wales, 1953				26.8

The infantile mortality rate was therefore lower than the average for the whole of England and Wales.
This one death occurred in a child of under 4 weeks old.

<u>Analysis of Causes of Deaths.</u>	Males 24. Females 24.	
	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	0.
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	0.
Malignant neoplasm, heart	0	1.
Other malignant neoplasm	0	1.
Leukaemia	1	0.
Vascular lesions, nervous system	5	2.
Coronary Disease	5	1.
Hypertension with heart disease	0	2.
Other heart disease	6	11.
Other circulatory disease	0	2.
Influenza	1	0.
Nephritis	1	0.
Other causes	1	3.
Motor vehicle accidents	0	1.
Other accidents	2	0.

The deaths are classified under the headings given in the new abridged list of Causes of deaths.

Illegitimacy. The number of illegitimate births registered as belonging to residents in the district during 1953 amounted to one.

Maternal Mortality. There were no deaths during the year which could be attributed to childbirth.

SECTION 2. GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Public Health Officers. There was no change in the public health officers during the year, Mr. G.G. Evans remained as your Sanitary Inspector.

Laboratory Facilities. During the year laboratory facilities were available at Cardiff, Newport, Carmarthen, Swansea, Aberystwyth and Brecon. All water samples were sent to the Public Health Laboratory at Hereford, whilst any investigation required in the control of infectious disease were performed by the Public Health Laboratory at Cardiff. All the milk sampling was done by the Public Health Laboratory at Hereford.

Ambulance Facilities. As a result of the National Health Service Act, 1946, the County Council were responsible for the provision of an ambulance service and made use of the existing St. John's ambulance for general use while ambulances from Merthyr Isolation Hospital conveyed patients suffering from infectious disease to hospital.

Home Nursing. Under the National Health Service Act, 1946, the County Council were responsible for the provision of home nursing facilities. The nurses previously partly employed by various district nursing associations were whole time employees of the County Council.

Treatment Centres and Clinics. Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics, administered by the County Council, are held regularly at Hay and Talgarth. Ante natal clinics and facilities for the treatment of minor ailments, immunisation, dental, orthopaedic and eye defects are also available.

Hospitals. The hospital needs of the residents of the district for all diseases apart from infectious disease, are provided for by the Brecon War Memorial Hospital. A certain number of cases are also admitted into Hereford Hospital. Merthyr Isolation Hospital and Hereford Isolation Hospital receive cases of infectious disease.

For the treatment of cases of smallpox arrangements have been made by the Welsh Board of Health for beds to be available at the Penrhys Hospital, Rhondda.

Disinfection. In the main, the methods used for any required disinfection have been fumigation and spraying.

SECTION 3. MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

These services are administered by the County Council and include clinics for maternity and child welfare, immunisation, dental, orthopaedic and eye treatment and for expectant mothers. Provision is also made for the provision of free and cheap rate milk and medicinal foods. The supervision of midwives, child life protection and the care of premature and illegitimate infants is also the responsibility of the County Council.

SECTION 4. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

I am indebted to your Sanitary Inspector for the reports on water supplies, sewerage and workings of the Factories Acts which are included in this section of the report.

Water Supplies. Water has been satisfactory in quantity during the year for those dwellings below the Ordnance contour of 500 feet, but most unsatisfactory for the majority of the dwellings above this height. The wet season helped considerably in the maintenance of the supplies.

The scheme previously submitted by a consulting Engineer was considered during the year but real progress seems very slow.

In the district there are 18 water supplies serving six dwellings or more by pipes either into the dwellings or to stand-pipes. Of these 18 supplies, 6 are owned by the Council. There are 170 supplies serving 5 dwellings or less and 60 of these are piped supplies, the remaining 110 being either pumps or springs.

Details of the water supply for each parish is given below:-

1. Aberllynfi. The quantity of water in this parish has been satisfactory during the year. The Council own the supply known as the Lodge serving the hamlet of Three Cocks. All the houses in this parish have water pipes inside the house.

One sample of water was sent for bacteriological examination, and this was unsatisfactory.

2. Bronllys. There are two public supplies in this parish. One of these is owned by the Welsh Regional Hospital Board and this supplies the sanatorium and all dwelling houses on the estate. The other supply is owned by the Council and water is drawn from springs under the Minfield bank and is not treated. This supply is augmented from the Talgarth Supply during periods of drought. Ninety nine dwellings are served from this supply. There are thirteen other supplies in this parish, all privately owned. No samples of water were sent for analysis during the year. Three samples were taken from private supplies and these were satisfactory.

3. Glynfach and the Usk Valley Portion of Tregoyd and Velindre.

There are ten private supplies in this area, three are piped into four dwellings, none are treated, and the other seven are simply running springs near the small-holdings. It would not be difficult in this area to find sufficient water to give each dwelling a piped supply. The distances to be piped would be considerable but this should not deny the public a wholesome supply of water.

No samples of water were submitted during the year.

4. Hay Rural. Seventeen houses in this parish are served with a piped supply from the Council's supply at Llanigon. This water is not treated. There are 21 other supplies in the parish and of these 7 are piped. One dwelling has to obtain water from a source 100 yards away. Improvements as approved by the Welsh Board of Health were carried out during the year. Two samples were sent for analysis, all were satisfactory.

5. Llanolieu. There are 15 dwellings in this parish, 10 in the Wye Valley and 5 in the Usk Valley and all have a piped supply laid on but are served from 9 different sources.

No samples were sent for analysis during the year.

6. Llanigon. The village of Llanigon is served by a public water supply owned by the Council. Springs are collected to a service reservoir but the water is not treated. Those sources supply 16 dwellings with water laid on and 10 dwellings from a stand-pipe. There are 7 other supplies in the parish and 5 of these are piped. Eleven are supplied with water from a considerable distance, 7 over 150 yards, 2 over 200 yards and 2 take a supply from open streams.

Four samples were examined during the year, three were satisfactory and one suspicious.

Sixteen dwellings in this parish situated over the 500 foot contour are badly in need of water for domestic use and the attention of the Council is drawn to this.

7. Llyswen. Of the 56 dwellings in this parish, 38 have water laid on, 14 are served by standpipes and 4 are served by pumps.

Thirty three dwellings are supplied by the Council and this water is not treated.

No samples were submitted for analysis during the year.

8. Pipton. There are 11 private supplies in this parish and of these 7 are piped supplies serving some 12 dwellings. No water is treated. The other dwellings are served by individual pumps. One pump serving two cottages is without water for two or three months in a dry year and the tenants then carry water some 350 yards.

No samples were submitted for analysis.

9. Talgarth (Wye Valley Section). There are three public supplies in this section, one owned by the Regional Hospital Board and two by the Council. The larger of the Council's supplies served 329 dwellings with water laid on and 32 from stand-pipes, several months of the year this supply augments the village of Bronllys. One portion of this supply is received as an overflow from the Mental Hospital, is sand filtered and chlorinated and the second portion is from springs collected in the Llanolieu parish. These springs are collected to a common service reservoir which, in times of drought, may be connected to the brook and on such occasions this water is chlorinated.

During 1953 supplies had to be restricted, during the night, for a portion of the last two quarters of the year. The Hospital staff are getting concerned about the supply of water and have notified your officials that they may have to restrict further and in view of these conditions it is sincerely hoped that quicker progress will be made in the very near future with the Llanbwehllyn Scheme.

During the year samples were taken from the Llanolieu Brook and reservoir, the brook water was most unsatisfactory, and the springs showed a faecal content of 5.

Samples were also taken from the Hospital source and this raw water was of a similar character as that of Llanolieu Brook, but after sand filtration and chlorination it was fit for human consumption.

As in some other parishes, dwellings above the 500 ft. contour are badly supplied with water.

There are 45 other supplies, of which 12 are piped in this parish and all are subject to pollution.

7 samples from private supplies were examined, 5 were satisfactory and 2 were doubtful.

10. Talgarth (Usk Valley Section) There is no public supply in this area. There are 24 dwelling houses in this area of which 3 have private piped supplies whilst the other 21 are supplied by running springs. 6 samples were taken during the year, and all were satisfactory.

11. Tregoyd and Velindre. (Wye Valley Section). Of the 118 dwellings in this parish 100 have water laid on and 6 are served by stand-pipes. All the supplies are owned by private individuals. One individual supplies water to 32 dwellings and another supplies 30 dwellings. The small-holdings above 500 feet are here again badly supplied and the main supplies in this parish are insufficient in times of drought whilst the quality is not satisfactory. Negotiations to purchase continued during the year.

One sample was submitted for bacteriological examination during the year and was unsatisfactory. One private supply sample was taken and this was satisfactory.

In conclusion it is obvious from the above description that all the water supplies should have urgent and serious consideration. They are subject to pollution and the very number - 171 - different sources make it impossible to give them individual attention as frequently as public health demands.

The major water scheme received consideration during the year but progress appears slow. In the meantime only two farmers took advantage of the Ministry of Agriculture grant to install private supplies.

Number of inspections of water supplies.....33.

Drainage and Sewerage. New sewers and sewage disposal works are required for the villages of Three Cocks, Bronllys, Llanigon, Llyswen, Velindre and Glasbury.

The Trefecca settling tanks could with advantage be enlarged, and this work has been agreed by the Council.

In Bronllys there is no treatment plant, the sewage running over fields. This in my opinion should be improved.

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There is also considerable work to be done at the Talgarth Sewage Disposal Works as the present effluent is far from satisfactory.

Number of visits in connection with drainage.....22.

● additional sewage disposal work has been done during the year.

Public Cleansing. Refuse is collected once weekly in Talgarth, Bronllys, Llyswn, Pipton, Aberllynfi, Tregoyd and Velindre. Hay Rural parish and Llanigon parish. The only parishes not included are Glynfach and Llanellieu. The refuse is then disposed of by controlled tipping. The refuse, which was previously collected by contract labour is still collected by the Council's lorry and staff under the supervision of your Sanitary Inspector.

Inspections of refuse tips.....13.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area. The sanitary inspection of the area was undertaken by the Sanitary Inspector. The following details give information relating to the work of the Sanitary Inspector during the year.

Nuisances.

Number of complaints received.....26.
 Number of complaints investigated.....26.
 Number of premises visited.....29.
 Number of premises revisited.....8.
 Number of preliminary notices served.....1.
 Number of abatement notices served.....0.

There has been some improvement experienced during the year in carrying out repairs owing to the improved supply of building materials.

Houses let in Lodgings. It is not considered that any of the houses in the district are of such a nature to require control under byelaws made under Section 6 of the Housing Act, 1936.

Offensive Trades. There are no offensive trades in the district.

Common Lodging Houses. There are no common lodging houses in the district.

Licensed Premises

Number of visits made by the Sanitary Inspector.....41.

There are 13 licensed houses in the district, of which 6 are satisfactory from the sanitary standpoint. Works of improvement were carried out during the year to one premises.

Shops. There are 27 which deal in food in the district and may be classified as follows:-

Grocers.....10.
 Grocers/Confectioners.....2.
 Grocer/Cafe.....1.
 Grocers/Bakers.....1.
 Bakers.....1.
 Cafes.....4.
 Greengrocers.....2.
 Confectioners/Tobacconists.....4.
 Butchers.....2.

The district is also served by such tradesmen from contiguous areas. There are no dairies registered under the Milk & Dairies Orders, 1949 but 3 supplementary licences are issued to Milk Dealers who are registered in the Borough of Brecon. All condemned foods are sprayed with fluorescent powder and buried in the Council's refuse tips.

Number of visits made by the Sanitary Inspector.....23.

Hay Rural District CouncilFactories.

Number of factories in the district.....	15.
Number of inspections made.....	25.
Number of defects found;	
(a) want of cleanliness.....	3.
(b) other offences.....	3.
All these defects were remedied.	

Camping Sites. There is no recognised camping site in the district for which a licence is necessary.

Eradication of Bed Bugs and Steps taken to combat infestation.

Any premises found as a result of complaint or inspection to be infested with bed bugs or other vermin would be treated with D.D.T. preparations. No premises were found to be so infested during the year.

Rodent Control. One full time rodent operator is employed who works under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector. This operator is also similarly employed by the Hay Urban Council and Painscastle Rural District Council.

Number of premises inspected during the year.....	431.
Number of premises found infested.....	94.
Number of premises treated by rodent operator.....	62.
Number treated by occupier.....	32.
Estimated number of rats killed during the year.....	1353.
Number of dead rats actually recovered.....	475.
Number of agricultural properties inspected.....	185.
Number of agricultural properties infested.....	68.
Number of agricultural properties treated.....	55.

The sewers in Talgarth were baited in May. No takes were recorded.

Legal Proceedings. No legal proceedings were undertaken by the Council during the year.

Section 5. Housing. During the year it was pleasing to note that some 32 houses were completed for habitation and this proved the best year since the end of the war. Since the end of the war, 68 Council houses and 25 private houses have been built and 4 of the latter during the year under review.

During the year one house, known as Llanthomas, was demolished, and there is only one house of such class now left in the district.

No applications for Improvement Grants under the Housing Act, 1949, were received during the year.

At the end of the year there were 101 applicants for Council houses in your district and they are allocated in the following table to each parish.

	<u>Number of applicants for houses in each parish</u>		
	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Rooms.</u>	<u>Houses.</u>

Aberllynfi.

(Glasbury part of Tregoyd and Velindre)

Bronllys.

Llanigon.

Llyswen.

Talgarth.

Tregoyd and Velindre

(Velindre district)

19.

18.

7.

6.

44.

7.

4.

8.

2.

2.

8.

0.

15.

10.

5.

4.

33.

7.

and 3 single men.

Number of house to house inspections by Sanitary Inspector..... 52.

Consideration should be given to the erection of dwellings for Old People and those applicants who require one or two bedrooms.

SECTION 6. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk. On 1st October 1949, the Milk and Dairies Act, 1944, came into operation. Under this Act the licensing of producers, and the supervision of milk producers became the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. The Council is now left only with the licensing and control of distributors.

Number of samples taken during the year.....22:
 Number of samples satisfactory.....18:
 Number of samples unsatisfactory..... 4.

The result of these samples was sent to the Milk Sub-Committee of the Ministry of Agriculture in Brecon.

Meat. There is no slaughterhouse in the district. All meat is supplied from the Ministry of Food's Slaughtering Point at Brecon. 12 lbs. of meat were condemned in the district as being unfit for human consumption.

Number of tins of foodstuffs condemned..... 4.
 Number of pounds of foodstuffs condemned.....267½.

Other Foods.

Food Preparation Rooms (including Bakehouses)

Number of inspections made..... 17.

Ice-Cream premises. Particular attention was paid to these owing to the epidemic of typhoid fever at Aberystwyth. Numerous visits of inspection were made by the Sanitary Inspector.

Number of visits made by Sanitary Inspector..... 32.

No manufacture of ice-cream is carried out in the district, there being 10 retailers. No samples of ice-cream were examined during the year.

Fish and Fried Fish Shops.

Number of inspections made by Sanitary Inspector.....17.
 There is one fried fish premises in the district.

SECTION 7. PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The following number of cases of notifiable infectious disease were reported to me during the year.

Measles..... 5
 Scarlet Fever..... 3.

The fees paid by the Council for the notifications of infectious disease are now, under the new Health Act, refunded by the County Council, provided that copies of the notifications are received by that authority. All the above cases were nursed at home. As will be seen the district was comparatively free from infectious disease during the year.

Venereal Disease. The County Council has an agreement with the General and Eye Hospital, Swansea, for the treatment of such cases. The tracing of contacts and the following up of defaulters is the responsibility of the County Council.

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Tuberculosis The following details show the position as regards tuberculosis in 1950 and recent years;

Number of cases on register at commencement of year.....	37.
Number of fresh cases notified during the year.....	10.
Number of cases removed due to recovery.....	4.
Number of cases removed due to removal from district.....	4.
Number of cases removed due to death.....	1.
Number of cases left on register at end of year.....	38.

The number of cases left on register at end of year can be classified as follows;-

Disease of lungs.....	26.
peritonaeum.....	1.
kidney.....	1.
joints.....	3.
glands... ..	7.
	<u>38.</u>

The 10 fresh cases during the year are;-

Disease of lungs.....	6.
joints.....	2.
glands.....	2.

Two of these cases were transfers into the district.

The number of cases notified during recent years is shown below;-

1942.	1943.	1944.	1945.	1946.	1947.	1948.	1949.	1950.	1951.	1952.	1953.
5.	6.	5.	8.	4.	5.	6.	4.	4.	10.	10.	10.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

As a result of the new Health Act, the County Council were responsible for the immunisation of children against diphtheria and details for the district will be found in the annual report of the County Medical Officer.

Facilities for immunisation are now available at the ordinary Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics and also at the schools during the school medical inspections.

It is pleasing to see that the incidence of diphtheria continues to fall. The object of the immunisation campaign, however, remains the same, to secure the immunisation of not less than 75% of babies before their first birthday. During the first half of 1953, however, it is disturbing to note that only 31% of the estimated number of children reaching the age of one year during this period received this protection. It must be remembered that diphtheria still kills and that elimination of the disease is conditional upon the maintenance of an adequate level of immunisation. If parents leave their children unprotected there may be a return of diphtheria outbreaks, and there have been several sharp reminders of this possibility during the year under review.

Yours faithfully,

T.C.R. George.

Medical Officer of Health.